

# Selected Achievements and Milestones in CDC's Office of Minority Health and Health Equity

In 2018, CDC's Office of Minority Health and Health Equity (OMHHE) celebrates 30 years of service. Learn more about some achievements and milestones that have played a role in the work that OMHHE does and the efforts to reduce health disparities and create healthy lives for everyone.

1915

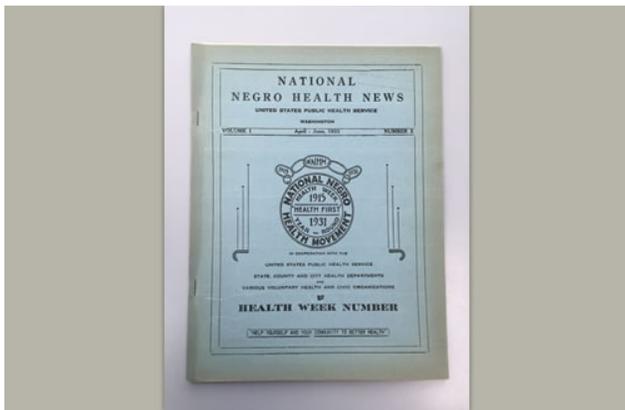
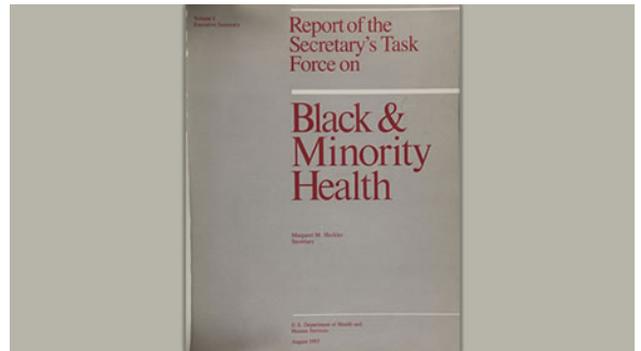


Photo: National Negro Health News Volume 1, Number 2, [NAID 7586131](#) [↗](#)

[National Negro Health Week](#) [↗](#) begins in response to disturbing findings by the Tuskegee Institute that highlighted the poor health status of African Americans in the early part of the 20th Century. The U. S. Public Health Service instituted this in order to improve the health status of the black population by educating members of the community, providing greater access to healthcare, and encouraging an increased number of black professionals in the field of public health.

1985



Report of the [Secretary's Task Force on Black and Minority Health](#) [↗](#), known as the Heckler Report is released which documented the existence of health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities in the United States and called such disparities "an affront both to our ideals and to the ongoing genius of American medicine."

1988

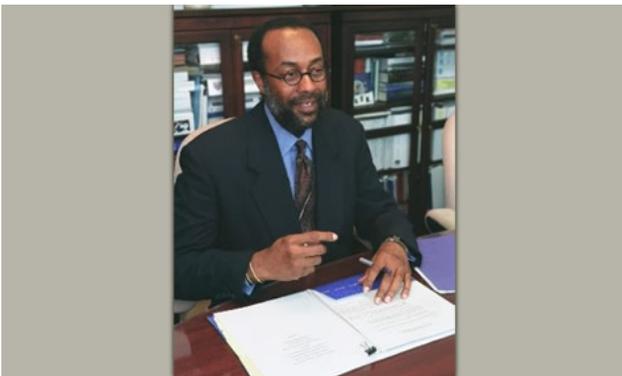


CDC's Office of Minority Health was established under the direction of Dr. Rueben Warren.

1986

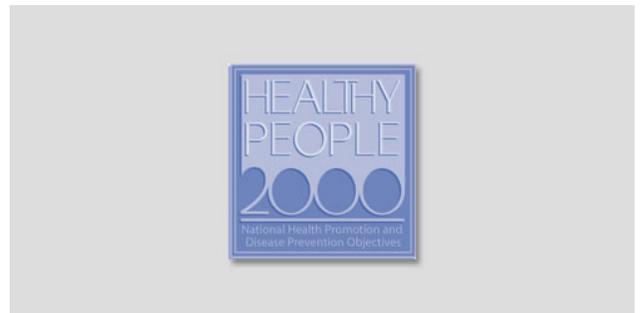
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health (HHS OMH) was created and is one of the most significant outcomes of the 1985 Secretary's Task Force Report on Black and Minority Health. The creation of the office lent itself to the emergence of minority health disparities as an issue of national significance.

1998



Dr. Walter Williams becomes associate director of minority health at CDC.

1990



In 1990, HHS released [Healthy People 2000: National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives](#), a strategy for improving the health of Americans by the end of the century, which was followed by [Healthy People 2010](#) and [Healthy People 2020](#).

2003

[The Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act of 2003](#)  passes to improve minority health and healthcare and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health and healthcare.

2001

HHS establishes the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care ([National CLAS Standards](#))  which aims to improve health care quality and advance health equity by establishing a framework for organizations to serve the nation's increasingly diverse communities.

2006

The HHS Office of Minority Health convened more than 2,000 experts and leaders at the [National Leadership Summit for Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities](#) . At this summit, community leaders, health equity experts and other stakeholders call for Social Determinants of Health-centered, community-driven, systems-oriented, cross-sector, and partnership-based approaches to eliminate health disparities.

2005

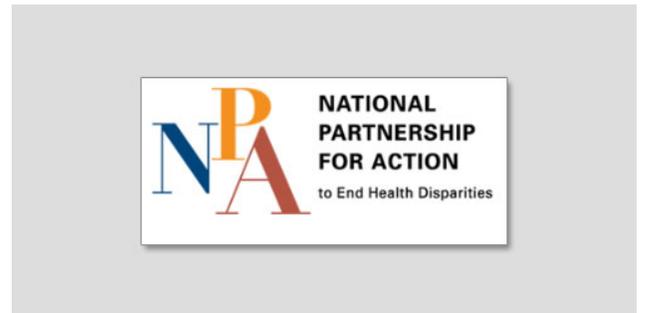
CDC establishes the [Health Disparities Subcommittee](#), which provides counsel to the CDC Director on CDC's efforts to address health disparities in achieving the agency's overarching health impact goals. This committee is important because it supports the development of specific health disparity objectives, performance indicators, and agency priorities and advocates for action on health disparities. This committee also provides guidance on opportunities for CDC to work with other sectors.

2010



In December 2010, HHS launched [Healthy People 2020](#) . Healthy People 2020 includes a new Foundation section which addresses several important health topics: [General Health Status](#) , [Health-Related Quality of Life and Well-Being](#) , [Determinants of Health](#) , and [Disparities](#) . An overarching goal of Healthy People 2020 is to achieve health equity, eliminate health disparities, and improve the health of all groups.

2007



The National Leadership Summit for Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities led to the development of the [National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities](#) .

2011



[Dr. Leandris Liburd](#) becomes director of what is now known as CDC's Office of Minority Health and Health Equity (OMHHE).

2010

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act passes in March 2010, establishing Offices of Minority Health within six agencies of HHS, including CDC.

2011



HHS launches the [National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity](#) and the [HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities](#).

2012

OMHHE launches the [Health Equity Matters newsletter](#). This quarterly e-newsletter shares news, perspectives, and progress in the science and practice of health equity.

2012



OMHHE launches [Conversations in Equity](#), a blog devoted to increasing awareness of health inequities and promoting national, state, and local efforts to reduce health disparities and achieve health equity.

2011



CDC releases first periodic "[CDC Health Disparities and Inequalities Report - United States, 2011](#)" which provides analysis and reporting of the recent trends and ongoing variations in health disparities and inequalities in selected social and health indicators, both of which are important steps in encouraging actions and facilitating accountability to reduce modifiable disparities by using interventions that are effective and scalable.

2012



OMHHE hosts the first group of students in the [CDC Undergraduate Public Health Scholars Program](#).

2013

CDC releases second "[CDC Health Disparities and Inequalities Report - United States, 2013](#)."

2013



OMHHE celebrates 25 years. As part of the commemoration, CDC's David J. Sencer Museum exhibited *Health Is a Human Right: Race and Place in America*. The exhibit interprets minority health issues in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, and illustrates the social determinants of health through photographs, documents, data charts, books, public health promotional materials, media, and artifacts. [The exhibit is available to view online through Georgia State University.](#)

2013

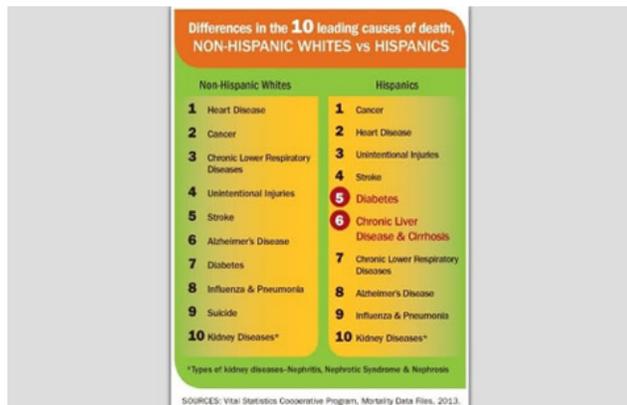
OMHHE becomes comprised of three units; **Minority Health, Women's Health, and Diversity and Inclusion Management.**

2014



OMHHE publishes an MMWR report, the "Strategies for Reducing Health Disparities – Selected CDC-Sponsored Interventions, United States, 2014." This report includes selected interventions that reflect effective public health actions supported by CDC that are proven effective or show promise for reducing health disparities at the local or national levels. This is followed by a [report in 2016](#) which highlights additional public health programs addressing health disparities.

2015



CDC releases [first national study on Hispanic health risks and leading causes of death in the U.S.](#)

2016



In collaboration with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, CDC published a [special supplement](#) to the *Journal of Public Health Management & Practice* focusing on health equity.

2017



CDC reports 25 percent drop in African-American death rate in [African American Health Vital Signs](#).

2018



In 2018 the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity (OMHHE) celebrates 30 years of service. Since 1988, CDC has focused on reducing health disparities and ensuring a culturally competent public health workforce. The theme for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration is *Mission: Possible*. We believe “healthy lives for everyone” is possible and a goal that resonates in public health. [Read more about addressing the needs of vulnerable populations during disasters.](#)